

FEEDBACK NETWORK

Mass Distribution

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SUBJECT LINE: Regional Service Areas (RSAs) Announced

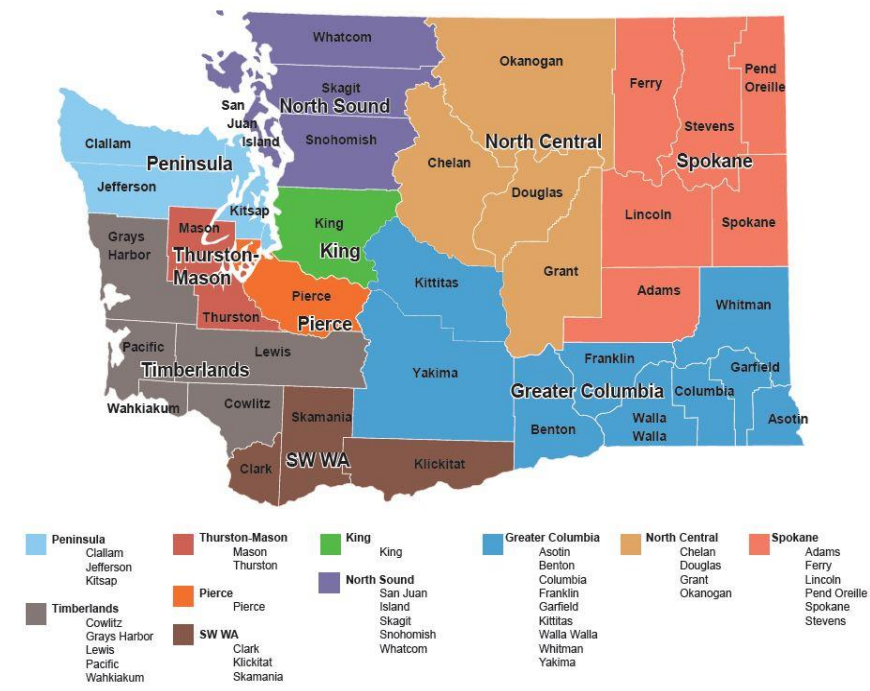
Dear Feedback Network Member,

The State Legislature passed Senate Bill 6312 earlier this year, which directed the state to regionalize its Medicaid purchasing approach. Earlier this week, two state agencies, the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), announced the common regional service areas (RSAs) for the purchasing of Medicaid and state funded physical and behavioral health services.

Washington State Medicaid Director MaryAnne Lindeblad said the regional service area designation is a first step towards achieving a healthier Washington.

“Achieving better health and better care in Washington starts by coordinating and integrating the health care delivery system with community services, social services, and public health,” Lindeblad said. “By jointly designating these regional service areas, we are better aligning our state purchasing and health care transformation efforts across common regions. These RSAs will serve as the foundation for health and community linkages at the regional level and promote shared accountability for the health and well-being of residents.”

HCA and DSHS based their designations on guidance received by the Legislature’s Adult Behavioral Health System Task Force, and on feedback received from community stakeholders across the state.



The RSA designation will also provide a framework for the evolution of a community role in Medicaid and state funded health care purchasing, occurring through the Accountable Communities of Health introduced in the Washington State Health Care Innovation Plan. Later this month, the HCA will release a grant opportunity announcement to support the evolution of Accountable Communities of Health, which will be aligned regionally with the RSAs.

Thank you for your interest in a Healthier Washington and for helping make Washington a healthy place to live, work, and play!

Please let us know if you have any questions.

The Healthier Washington Project Team

healthierwa@hca.wa.gov

(360) 725-1643

www.hca.wa.gov/hw